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P. Gomatos, N. Stamatos, H. Gendelman, A. Fowler, D. Hoover, D. Kalter, D. Burke, E. Tramont & M. Meltzer

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Macrophages are the major viral reservoirs in the brain, lungs, and lymph nodes of HIV-infected patients. But not all HIV isolates infect macrophages. The molecular basis for this restrictive target cell tropism and the mechanisms by which HIV infects macrophages are not well understood: virus uptake by CD4-dependent and -independent pathways have both been proposed. Soluble rCD4 (sCD4) binds with high affinity to gp120, the envelope glycoprotein of HIV, and at relatively low concentrations (<1mg/ml) completely inhibits infection of many HIV strains in T cells or T cell lines. HTLV-IIIB infection of the H9 T cell line was completely inhibited by prior treatment of virus with 10mg/ml sCD4: no p24 Ag or HIV-induced T cell syncytia were detected in cultures of H9 cells exposed to 1×10^4 TCID₅₀ HTLV-IIIB in the presence of sCD4. Under identical conditions and at a 100-fold lower viral inoculum, 10 mg/ml sCD4 had little or no effect on infection of monocytes by any of six different HIV isolates by three different criteria: p24 Ag release, virus-induced cytopathic effects, and the frequency of infected cells that express HIV-specific mRNA. At 10-to 100-fold higher concentrations of sCD4, however, infection was completely inhibited. Monoclonal anti-CD4 for inhibition of HIV infection in monocytes was a property of the virion, not the target cell: HIV isolates that infect both monocytes and T cells required similarly high levels of sCD4 (100 to 200 mg/ml) for inhibition of infection. These data suggest that the gp120 of progeny HIV derived from macrophages interacts with sCD4 differently than that of virions derived from T cells. For both variants of HIV, however, the predominant mechanism of virus entry for infection is DC4-dependent.

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RELATIVE INEFFICIENCY OF SOLUBLE RECOMBINANT CD4 FOR INHIBITION OF INFECTION BY MONOCYTE-TROPIC HIV IN MONOCYTES AND T CELLS¹

PETER J. GOMATOS,* NICHOLAS M. STAMATOS,* HOWARD E. GENDELMAN,**
ARNOLD FOWLER,[§] DAVID L. HOOVER,[†] D. CHESTER KALTER,** DONALD S. BURKE,*
EDMUND C. TRAMONT,* AND MONTE S. MELTZER^{2†}

From the ¹HIV Immunopathogenesis Program, Department of Cellular Immunology and ²Division of Retrovirology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D.C. 20307-5100; [§]SRA Technologies Inc., and [†]Henry M. Jackson Foundation for the Advancement of Military Medicine, Rockville, MD 20850

Macrophages are major viral reservoirs in the brain, lungs, and lymph nodes of HIV-infected patients. But not all HIV isolates infect macrophages. The molecular basis for this restrictive target cell tropism and the mechanisms by which HIV infects macrophages are not well understood: virus uptake by CD4-dependent and -independent pathways have both been proposed. Soluble rCD4 (sCD4) binds with high affinity to gp120, the envelope glycoprotein of HIV, and at relatively low concentrations (<1 µg/ml) completely inhibits infection of many HIV strains in T cells or T cell lines. HTLV-III_B infection of the H9 T cell line was completely inhibited by prior treatment of virus with 10 µg/ml sCD4: no p24 Ag or HIV-induced T cell syncytia were detected in cultures of H9 cells exposed to 1×10^4 TCID₅₀ HTLV-III_B in the presence of sCD4. Under identical conditions and at a 100-fold lower viral inoculum, 10 µg/ml sCD4 had little or no effect on infection of monocytes by any of six different HIV isolates by three different criteria: p24 Ag release, virus-induced cytopathic effects, and the frequency of infected cells that express HIV-specific mRNA. At 10- to 100-fold higher concentrations of sCD4, however, infection was completely inhibited. Monoclonal anti-CD4 also prevented infection of these same viral isolates in monocytes. The relative inefficiency of sCD4 for inhibition of HIV infection in monocytes was a property of the virion, not the target cell: HIV isolates that infect both monocytes and T cells required similarly high levels of sCD4 (100 to 200 µg/ml) for inhibition of infection. These data suggest that the gp120 of progeny HIV derived from macrophages interacts with sCD4 differently than that of virions derived from T cells. For both variants of HIV, however, the predominant mechanism of virus entry for infection is CD4-dependent.

Interaction between the HIV envelope glycoprotein, gp120, and T cell plasma membrane CD4 is a necessary event for infection: antibodies to CD4 inhibit HIV infection of T cells (1-3); certain human cells not normally susceptible to HIV develop a productive infection after transfection with CD4 cDNA (4). sCD4³ also binds with high affinity to gp120 ($K_d \sim 10^{-9}$ M) and at relatively low concentrations (1 µg/ml) inhibits the infection of many HIV strains in T cells or T cell lines (5-10). But T cells are not the only target for HIV in infected patients. Macrophages of brain, lymph nodes, and lung are major virus reservoirs (11-13). The mechanisms by which HIV infects macrophages are not well understood. Indeed, laboratory strains of HIV-1 passaged in T cells or T cell lines (such as HTLV-III_B) and used for many of the preceding studies do not readily infect monocytes (14-17). In contrast, virus recovered from blood leukocytes of HIV-infected patients onto monocyte target cells from uninfected donors can be readily passaged in other monocytes. For most seropositive patients, HIV isolates can be recovered from blood leukocytes in both the conventional T cell and monocyte cultures. Serial passage of these HIV clinical isolates into T lymphoblast and monocyte target cells documents a strong tropism of certain HIV for monocytes. HIV isolated in either T cells or monocytes can be serially passaged into cultures of PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts. Analysis of such HIV-infected lymphoblasts by levels of p24 Ag and RT activity, in situ hybridization for HIV-specific mRNA, formation of cell syncytia during infection, down-modulation of T cell plasma membrane CD4, and transmission-electron microscopy (progeny virions budding at the plasma membrane only with no intracytoplasmic accumulation of viral particles) shows no qualitative or quantitative differences between T cell and monocyte-derived HIV isolates: these monocyte-tropic HIV grow equally well in monocytes and T cells (18). In marked contrast to the preceding results, viral isolates initially recovered from PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts (T cell-tropic HIV) show little or no growth on monocytes by the criteria of virus-induced cytopathic effects, p24 Ag or RT activity levels, or infectious titer. Thus, HIV isolated in monocytes show dual tropism and infect monocytes and T cells equally; viruses isolated in PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts replicate efficiently only in T cells (15-20).

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² Address correspondence and reprint requests to Monte S. Meltzer, Department of Cellular Immunology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D.C. 20307-5100.

³ Abbreviations used in this paper: sCD4, soluble rCD4; RT, reverse transcriptase; MCSF, macrophage-CSF; TCID₅₀, 50% tissue culture infective dose.

We show in this report that pretreatment of monocytes with mAb against CD4 completely prevented productive infection by monocyte-tropic HIV. However, under conditions in which sCD4 completely inhibited HTLV-IIIb infection of T cells, this recombinant molecule had little or no effect on the ability of six different monocyte-tropic HIV strains to infect macrophages. The apparent refractoriness of these monocyte-tropic HIV to inhibition by sCD4 was quantitative and evident with both monocyte and T cell targets. Under identical conditions and taking into account the amount of sCD4 used and the viral inoculum, there was at least a 10,000-fold difference in the efficacy of sCD4 for inhibition of monocyte-tropic HIV infection in monocytes vs that of HTLV-IIIb in T cells.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Isolation and culture of monocyte, T lymphoblast, or H9 target cells. Monocytes were recovered from PBMC of HIV and hepatitis B-seronegative donors after leukapheresis and purified by counter-current centrifugal elutriation of mononuclear leukocyte-rich fractions of blood cells. Cell suspensions were >98% monocytes by criteria of cell morphology on Wrightstained cytosmears, by granular peroxidase, and by nonspecific esterase. Monocytes were cultured as adherent cell monolayers (1.5×10^5 cells/6-mm tissue culture well) in 0.15 ml DMEM (formula 78-176AJ, GIBCO, Grand Island, NY) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated A* human serum, 50 μ g/ml gentamicin, and 1000 U/ml recombinant human MCSF (a generous gift from the Cetus Corporation, Emeryville, CA) (17). The H9 T cell lymphoma cell line (Dr. R. Gallo, contributor, AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program, AIDS Program, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, MD) was cultured in RPMI 1640 medium (GIBCO) with gentamicin, 15% FCS (Sterile Systems, Inc., Logan, UT), and 10% partially purified human IL-2 (Advanced Biotechnologies, Inc., Columbia, MD). PBMC, isolated from whole blood by Ficoll-diatrizoate density gradient centrifugation, were cultured at 1×10^6 viable cells/ml in RPMI 1640 medium (GIBCO) with 5 μ g/ml PHA (Sigma Chemical Co., St. Louis, MO), 10% purified human IL-2 (Advanced Biotechnologies), and 15% heat-inactivated FCS (Sterile Systems).

HIV infection of monocyte and T cell targets. HTLV-IIIb/H9 (Dr. R. Gallo, contributor, AIDS Research and Reference Reagent Program, AIDS Program, NIAID, NIH), an HIV strain adapted to T cell lines, was pretreated with dilutions of sCD4 (a generous gift of Biogen, Cambridge, MA) for 30 min at 37°C and added to H9 cells or PBMC-derived lymphoblasts treated 3 days previously with PHA/IL-2. For virus infection in PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts, all cultures were supplemented with 2 μ g/ml Polybrene⁺ (Sigma). MCSF-treated monocytes were cultured as adherent monolayers 5 to 10 days before use as target cells. Monocytes were exposed to any of several HIV originally isolated and passaged in MCSF-treated monocytes (strains ADA, 16, 24, 36, 37, and 38) (17, 18). Monocyte-tropic HIV were also pretreated with dilutions of sCD4 for 30 min at 37°C. Except where noted, dilutions of sCD4 were maintained with both H9 and monocytes throughout the culture interval. All cultures were refed with fresh medium every 2 to 3 days. Levels of p24 Ag in culture fluids were determined by ELISA (Coulter Electronics Inc., Hialeah, FL).

In situ hybridization with HIV RNA probes. Single-stranded HIV ³⁵S-RNA probes were synthesized from rDNA plasmid containing SP6/T7 promoters (Promega Biotec, Madison, WI) and incubated in alkaline (pH 10.2) solutions before hybridization to facilitate entry into cells. Cytosmears of monocytes on polylysine-coated glass slides were fixed in periodate-lysine paraformaldehyde-glutaraldehyde and pretreated with proteinase K, triethanolamine and HCl. Specimens were prehybridized in 10 mM Tris, pH 7.4, 2 \times SSC (0.3 M NaCl, 0.03 M sodium citrate, pH 7.4), Denhardt's solution (0.02% polyvinylpyrrolidone, 0.02% Ficoll, 0.02% BSA), and 200 μ g/ml yeast tRNA at 45°C for 2 h and hybridized in this solution with 10% dextran sulfate, 5 μ M dithiothreitol, and 1×10^6 cpm ³⁵S-labeled HIV RNA. Slides were serially washed in solutions with RNase to reduce binding of nonhybridized probe. Autoradiography was performed in absolute darkness (11).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Initial studies confirmed previous reports that HTLV-IIIb infection of the H9 T cell line was completely inhibited by prior treatment of virus with 10 μ g/ml sCD4 and

with the same concentration of sCD4 continuously maintained in culture (Fig. 1). No p24 Ag was detected by ELISA in culture fluids of H9 cells exposed to 1×10^4 TCID₅₀ HTLV-IIIb in the presence of sCD4 (or in replicate experiments with 1×10^5 TCID₅₀ HTLV-IIIb). Whereas HTLV-IIIb-infected H9 cells showed about 215 syncytia/ 1×10^5 cells in triplicate cultures at 7 days, no syncytia were observed in replicate cultures treated with 10 μ g/ml sCD4. In other experiments and as previously reported, HTLV-IIIb infection of H9 cells was completely inhibited by as little as 0.1 to 1 μ g/ml sCD4 (5-10). Inhibition of infection by sCD4 was also evident with HTLV-IIIb and PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts from PBMC: no p24 Ag was detected through 3 wk in culture fluids of PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts exposed to 1×10^4 TCID₅₀ HTLV-IIIb in the presence of 10 μ g/ml sCD4; no HIV-induced syncytia were evident among the cells of these same sCD4-treated cultures. Similar results have been reported by others with at least five different HIV strains in both T cells of peripheral blood and T cell lines (5-10).

Under identical conditions, sCD4 at 10 μ g/ml had little or no effect on levels of p24 Ag in culture fluids of monocytes infected with 1×10^2 TCID₅₀ ADA, a monocyte-tropic HIV patient isolate (Fig. 1). It is important to note that the HTLV-IIIb used for infection of H9 cells in these experiments contained >100-fold more infectious particles than the ADA inoculum used to infect monocytes. Thus, under identical conditions and taking into account both the amount of sCD4 used and the viral inoculum, there was at least a 10,000-fold difference in the efficacy of sCD4 for inhibition of HIV infection in T cells vs macrophages.

The inability of sCD4 to inhibit HIV infection of monocytes was confirmed by two other independent means of detecting virus infection. HIV induces a characteristic cytopathic effect in monocyte cultures: formation of multinucleated giant cells (16, 17, 21). Figure 2 shows

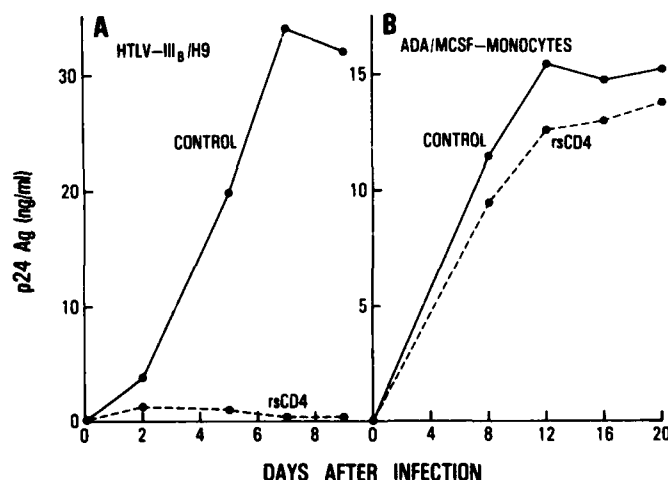


Figure 1. Effect of sCD4 on HIV infection of H9 T cells and MCSF-treated monocytes. The H9 T cell lymphoma cell line was cultured in RPMI 1640 medium with gentamicin, 15% FCS, 2 μ g/ml Polybrene⁺, and 10% partially purified human IL-2 at 1×10^5 cells/6-mm culture well. HTLV-IIIb was pretreated with 10 μ g/ml sCD4 for 30 min at 37°C and added at 1×10^4 TCID₅₀ to the H9 cells. PBMC purified to >98% monocytes were incubated as adherent monolayers at 1.5×10^5 cells/6-mm culture well in 0.15 ml DMEM with 10% human serum, and 1000 U/ml MCSF. At 7 to 10 days, monocytes were exposed to 1×10^2 TCID₅₀ ADA, a monocyte-tropic HIV isolate pretreated with 10 μ g/ml sCD4. The sCD4 was maintained at 10 μ g/ml with both H9 and monocytes throughout the culture interval. All cultures were refed with fresh medium every 2 to 3 days. Levels of p24 Ag in culture fluids were determined by ELISA.

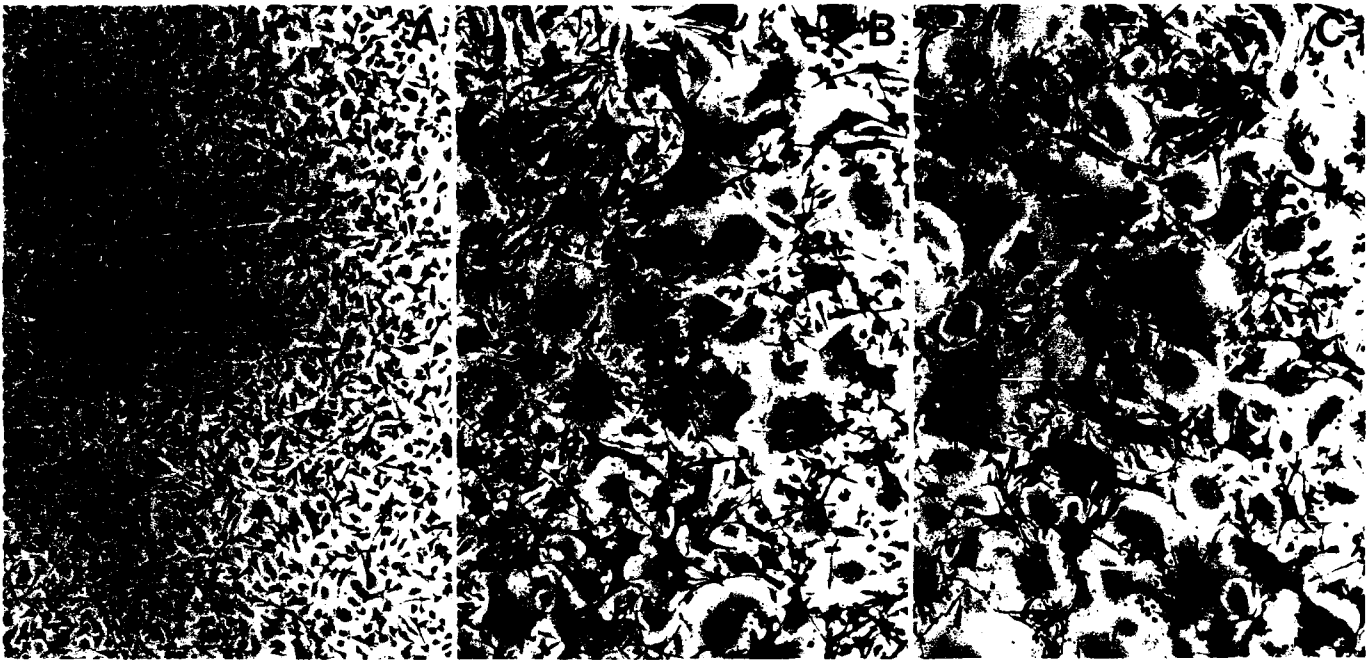


Figure 2. Effect of sCD4 on HIV-induced cytopathic effects in MCSF-treated monocytes. PBMC purified to > 98% monocytes were incubated as adherent monolayers in medium with 10% human serum and 1000 U/ml MCSF. At 7 to 10 days, monocytes were exposed to 1×10^2 TCID₅₀ ADA pretreated with 10 µg/ml sCD4. The sCD4 was maintained at 10 µg/ml throughout the culture interval. Cultures were refed with fresh medium every 2 to 3 days. Photomicrographs of adherent cells fixed in methanol and Wright-stained 15 days after infection are at 200× original magnification. Left panel: uninfected MCSF-treated monocytes; middle panel: HIV-infected monocytes; right panel: HIV-infected monocytes with 10 µg/ml sCD4.

control monocytes without multinucleated giant cells in culture for 3 wk. Multinucleated giant cells were evident in about 20 to 40% of total cells in the HIV-infected cultures. There was no difference in the number or extent of these multinucleated giant cells in replicate cultures treated with 10 µg/ml sCD4. In similar experiments, about $27 \pm 2\%$ of total monocytes (mean \pm sem of 200 cells in duplicate determinations) expressed HIV mRNA as detected by in situ hybridization with radiolabeled ssRNA probes at 17 days. The frequency of monocytes that express HIV mRNA in cultures with 10 µg/ml sCD4 was $31 \pm 2\%$.

The inability of sCD4 to inhibit infection of HIV in monocytes was not limited to the ADA isolate. We examined six different HIV isolates that infect monocytes (strains ADA, 16, 24, 36, 37, and 38). In each case, the HIV inoculum was less than 0.001 monocyte infectious doses per cell. Results for four of these isolates (strains 16, 24, 36, and 38) are shown in Figure 3. In each instance, 10 µg/ml sCD4 had little or no effect on virus infection: levels of p24 Ag released into monocyte culture fluids at 3 wk with or without sCD4 were indistinguishable. In separate experiments, we obtained identical results when we used as an inoculum viral stock that had been pelleted after ultracentrifugation. Such washing after centrifugation would remove any soluble gp120 present in the virus stock that could potentially have interacted with the sCD4.

The preceding results showed that 10 µg/ml sCD4 had little or no effect on infection of monocytes by any of six different HIV isolates by three different criteria: p24 Ag release, virus-induced cytopathic effects, and the frequency of infected cells that express HIV-specific mRNA. The role of plasma membrane CD4 in the initiation of infection by HIV in monocytes was further examined by two different approaches by block these receptors: a)

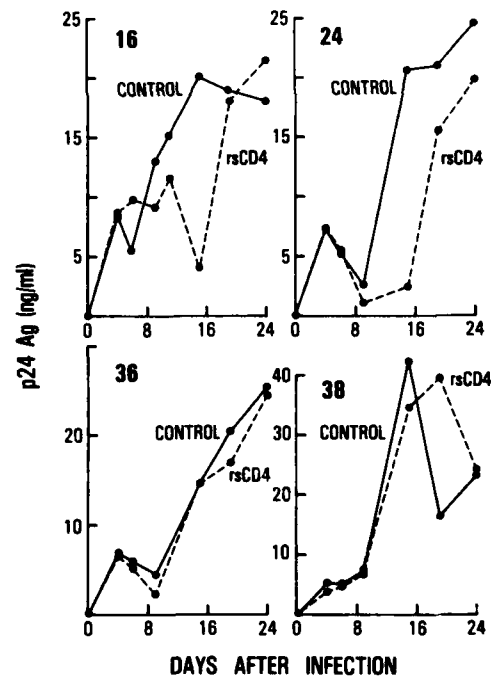


Figure 3. Effect of sCD4 on HIV infection of MCSF-treated monocytes. PBMC purified to >98% monocytes were incubated as adherent monolayers in medium with 10% human serum, and 1000 U/ml MCSF. At 7 to 10 days, monocytes were exposed to 1×10^2 TCID₅₀ HIV isolates 16, 24, 36 and 38 pretreated with 10 µg/ml sCD4. The sCD4 was maintained at 10 µg/ml throughout the culture interval. All cultures were refed with fresh medium every 2 to 3 days. Levels of p24 Ag in culture fluids were determined by ELISA.

competitive inhibition by excess HTLV-IIIb, an HIV strain that interacts with CD4 receptors in many different cell lines but fails to infect monocytes, and b) use of mAb that bind to epitopes on CD4 close to or at the site of binding for virus gp120. HTLV-IIIb does not grow in monocytes, but it does enter these cells and is present in

endocytic vacuoles shortly after adsorption (14). We exposed monocytes to HTLV-III_B at an inoculum titer 1000- to 10,000-fold more than that used for any of the monocyte-tropic HIV isolates (Table I). The time course and ultimate levels of p24 Ag released into monocyte culture fluids after infection with any of the monocyte-tropic HIV isolates were unchanged by prior exposure of these cells to an excess of HTLV-III_B. No p24 Ag was detected in culture fluids of monocytes exposed to HTLV-III_B alone through 3 wk. Thus, if HTLV-III_B occupied the CD4 receptors on the monocytes, such receptor occupancy did not affect the ability of monocyte-tropic HIV isolates to initiate a productive infection.

These observations raise the possibility of another receptor or mechanism of entry for HIV in monocytes independent of CD4. However, this possibility was made less likely by subsequent experiments with mAb directed against the gp120 binding site on CD4. Infection of monocytes by monocyte-tropic HIV isolates was completely abrogated by prior treatment of cells with the mAb, Leu 3a (Table I) or OKT4a (data not shown). As a control, equal amounts of mAb directed against HLA-DR had no effect.

These data document an apparent paradox. mAb against CD4 completely inhibited infection of any of three different monocyte-tropic HIV isolates in monocytes. This observation strongly suggests that the interaction between HIV and monocyte CD4 is a necessary event for the initiation of infection. Yet, sCD4 at levels 1000- to 10,000-fold higher than those required to inhibit HTLV-III_B infection of T cells, fails to inhibit the infection of monocyte-tropic HIV isolates in monocytes. If CD4 is the receptor for HIV on monocytes, then the interaction of sCD4 with monocyte-tropic HIV may differ from that of T cell-tropic HIV (perhaps similar in concept to previously observed differences in efficacy of sCD4 for inhibition of HIV-1 and HIV-2 infection) (10). Furthermore, the interaction of sCD4 which lacks the transmembrane and cytoplasmic sequences of CD4 (6-9) with monocyte-tropic HIV may be different from that of the virus with CD4 on monocyte plasma membranes. Such differences in the interaction of monocyte-tropic and T cell-tropic HIV to sCD4 may be quantitative or qualitative.

To address these issues, we reexamined the effect of sCD4 on HIV infection of monocytes at concentrations 60-fold higher than that previously used. HTLV-III_B (about 1×10^4 TCID₅₀) was pretreated with 5 to 625 μ g/ml sCD4 for 1 h and then the mixture was added to H9 target cells. The H9 cells were exposed to HIV in the

presence of sCD4 for 24 h. All cultures were refed by removing half of the volume and replacing this with medium without sCD4 every 2 days. At 10 days, p24 Ag levels in cultures of H9 cells exposed to HTLV-III_B without sCD4 exceeded 50 ng/ml. No p24 Ag was detected (≤ 0.05 ng/ml) in any culture treated with sCD4. The effect of sCD4 on the capacity of monocyte-tropic HIV isolates ADA and 36 (about 50 TCID₅₀) to infect monocytes was determined under identical conditions. In these experiments, sCD4 completely inhibited the infection of monocyte-tropic HIV in monocytes (Table II). Little or no p24 Ag was detected in monocyte cultures exposed to HIV isolate 36 pretreated with 625 μ g/ml sCD4 or to HIV isolate ADA pretreated with 125 μ g/ml sCD4 at any time during 3 wk. Similarly, levels of RT activity in these culture fluids were also undetectable. RT activity in the infected monocyte control cultures were 4×10^5 cpm/ml at 10 days (background RT activity levels of $< 5 \times 10^3$ cpm/ml). The concentration of sCD4 required to inhibit 50% maximum levels of p24 Ag in the HIV-infected monocyte cultures was 250 μ g/ml for HIV isolate 36 and 45 μ g/ml for HIV isolate ADA. Thus sCD4 completely inhibited HIV infection of monocytes, but the relative efficiency of this inhibition compared to that for T cells differed by more than 10,000-fold.

The progeny virus of HIV-infected monocytes show marked differences from those of HIV-infected T cells. Most notable in these differences is the relative proportion of *gag* vs *env* gene products. The *env* gene products in the progeny virus of HIV-infected T cells represent about 35% of total viral protein (gp160 + gp120/gp160 + gp120 + p55 + p24) by radioimmunoprecipitation analysis of virions with sera from HIV-infected patients. In contrast, the *env* gene products in progeny virus of HIV-infected monocytes represent $< 10\%$ of total virus protein (22). Transmission electron microscopic analysis of progeny virus from infected monocytes and T cells confirm the radioimmunoprecipitation analysis. Characteristic envelope "spikes", the morphologic representation of gp120, are evident in the HIV released from infected T cells. The progeny virus of HIV-infected monocytes show little or no "spikes" and are relatively bald (21). These observations document a substantial quantitative decrease in the amount of envelope in progeny virus released from infected monocytes and may explain differences in the interaction of sCD4 with the gp120 of monocyte and T cell-tropic HIV.

Monocyte-tropic HIV isolates preferentially infect monocytes, but will also infect T cells (18). With certain

TABLE I
Effect of monoclonal anti-CD4 or HTLV-III_B pretreatment on HIV infection of monocytes^a

HIV Isolate	Release of p24 Ag (ng/ml) in cultures treated with:					
	Leu 3a anti-CD4				anti-HLA DR 1/30	HTLV-III _B
	1/30	1/150	1/750	x		
ADA	0	1	4	5	>6	>4
16	0	1	7	8	>6	>4
36	0	3	11	11	>6	>4

^a PBMC purified to $> 98\%$ monocytes were incubated as adherent monolayers in medium with 10% human serum, and 1000 U/ml MCSF. At 7 to 10 days, monocytes were treated with dilutions of Leu 3a anti-CD4 or anti-HLA DR (Becton Dickinson Immunocytometry Systems, Mountain View, CA) or 1×10^4 TCID₅₀ HTLV-III_B. After 30-min treatment, monocytes were exposed to 1×10^4 TCID₅₀ of three different monocyte-tropic HIV isolates. After virus adsorption, cultures were washed and refed with fresh medium every 2 to 3 days through 3 wk. Monocytes were continuously exposed to dilutions of mAb throughout the 3-wk interval. Levels of p24 Ag in culture fluids were determined by ELISA. The p24 Ag in monocyte cultures treated with HTLV-III_B alone was < 0.05 ng/ml through 3 wk. Results in Table I represent one of four replicate experiments.

TABLE II

Effect of sCD4 on ability of monocyte-tropic HIV to infect MCSF-treated monocytes or PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts^a

sCD4 (μ g/ml)	Release of p24 Ag (ng/ml) in cultures infected with:			
	HIV Isolate 36		HIV Isolate ADA	
	Monocytes	Lymphoblasts	Monocytes	Lymphoblasts
0	>6 (390)	104	>6 (366)	71
5	>6 (370)	106	>6 (288)	80
25	>6 (238)	72	6 (144)	66
125	6 (122)	55	1 (30)	51
625	0 (4)	7	0 (6)	1

^a Unfractionated PBMC were cultured for 3 days in RPMI 1640 medium with 15% FCS, 2 μ g/ml Polybrene⁺, and 10% human IL-2 at 1×10^5 cells/6-mm culture well. PBMC purified to > 98% monocytes were incubated 7 days as adherent monolayers at 1.5×10^5 cells/6-mm culture wells in medium with 10% human serum, and 1000 U/ml MCSF. HIV isolates ADA and 36 (1×10^3 TCID₅₀) were pretreated with different concentrations of sCD4 for 1 h at 37°C, and the mixture added to monocytes and lymphoblasts. Target cells were exposed to HIV in the presence of sCD4 for 24 h. All cultures were refed by removing half of the medium and replacing this with medium without sCD4 every 2 days. Levels of p24 Ag in culture fluids were determined by ELISA. Data shown are p24 Ag levels 3 wk after HIV infection. Levels of RT activity (cpm/ml $\times 10^{-3}$) in culture fluids are shown in parentheses. RT activity in culture fluids of uninfected cells was < 5000 cpm/ml. Results represent one of three replicate experiments.

monocyte-tropic HIV isolates this amphotropism can be truly equal. In contrast, HIV strains initially isolated in T cells and passaged only in T cell targets do not infect monocytes. If the relative inefficiency of sCD4 for inhibition of HIV infection of monocytes is a property of the virus (and not the target cell), then this quality might also be expressed with T cell targets. Monocyte-tropic HIV isolates 36 and ADA also replicate in PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts from PBMC. In contrast to previous observations with the HTLV-III_B strain, sCD4 at 10 μ g/ml failed to inhibit infection of either monocyte-tropic HIV isolate in T cells. Higher concentrations of sCD4, however, completely prevented infection. No p24 Ag was detected through 2 wk of culture with PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblasts exposed to monocyte-tropic HIV isolates 36 or ADA pretreated with 625 μ g/ml sCD4 (Table II). The concentration of sCD4 required to inhibit 50% maximum levels of p24 Ag in the HIV-infected PHA/IL-2-treated lymphoblast cultures was 180 μ g/ml for HIV isolate 36 and 130 μ g/ml for HIV isolate ADA. These data strongly suggest that the relative inefficiency of sCD4 for inhibition of monocyte-tropic HIV infection of monocytes or T cells is a property of the virion and not of the target cell.

The preceding data is consistent with the hypothesis that HIV interaction with CD4 is an obligate reaction for infection of both T cells and monocytes. None of these observations, however, preclude another, CD4-independent route of infection. The frequency of monocytes that express plasma membrane CD4 may range from 5 to 90% (15, 17, 23–26). Expression of CD4 on infected macrophages in the central nervous system, the predominant target cell for HIV in this tissue, may be especially low (27). HIV may enter macrophages through phagocytosis (14), FcR-mediated endocytosis (28), or interaction with receptors for mannoseylated proteins (29). Several recent reports document at least one CD4-independent route of infection in susceptible T cell and monocyte targets (19, 28, 30, 31). Infection of T cells or monocytes with HIV was markedly enhanced (5- to 10-fold increase in RT activity in culture fluids) by sera from certain HIV-infected patients. Antibody-mediated enhancement in both monocytes and T cells was not inhibited by monoclonal

anti-CD4 (Leu 3a) (19). In monocytes, antibody-mediated enhancement of HIV infection is inhibited by monoclonal anti-FcR_{III} (the predominant Fc receptor in tissue macrophages and monocytes in culture, but absent on circulating blood monocytes) but not mAb directed against FcR_I or FcR_{II} (19). Antibody-mediated enhancement of HIV infection in the myeloid cell line U937, which lacks FcR_{III} but does express FcR_I and FcR_{II}, was blocked by heat-aggregated IgG (28). In these studies, the infection pattern of U937 simulates more closely that of T cells rather than that of monocytes or macrophages. U937 is also a susceptible target cell for several T cell-tropic HIV, but not monocyte-tropic viruses (20). Interestingly, infection of U937 by HTLVIII-B or other T cell-tropic HIV is also blocked by relatively low concentrations of sCD4 (10).

By whatever mechanism, the preceding data convincingly shows that sCD4 is much less effective in blocking infection of HIV derived from infected monocytes than of virions derived from T cells. If our results obtained in cell culture systems have significance for patients, then macrophages that serve as reservoirs for HIV throughout the body and may ultimately be responsible for chronic central nervous system disease, may not be protected by sCD4 treatment.

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